**Essential Questions for American Literature**

1. Why do authors choose to write a text?

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2. What do we mean by text?

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3. What influences are all authors, through time, subject to?

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4. How do events and ideologies of a particular era influence texts?

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5. How does history influence texts?

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6. How does philosophy influence texts?

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7. How does society’s view of nature influence texts?

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8. How does society’s sense of optimism, fatalism, and/or pessimism influence text?

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9. How can a single person, one individual influence the texts of thousands of authors?

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10. How do politics influence texts?

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11. How does religion influence texts?

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12. How can an invention influence texts?

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13. How does the belief in objective/subjective truth influence texts?

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14. How does technology influence texts?

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15. How does immigration and emigration influence texts?

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16 .Is it just texts that are subject to these influences? What else might change?

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17. What is different about the way we will approach this course as compared with English 9/10?

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18 Why are we studying only American (US) texts?

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